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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/693,267 | 10/24/2003 | Mark V. Shoen | 57111-5137 | 9077 |

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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/693,267 | SHOEN, MARK V. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | James M. Hewitt | 3679 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16, 27, 31-34, 36 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31-34 and 36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16, 27 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings filed 1/23/06 are objected to because they are not properly identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" as required by 37 CFR 1.121(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 16 and 27 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 16, line 19, the recitation "a thin-wall deep socket" should be related to the socket hole.

In claim 27, line 7, "a" should be inserted before "length".

In claim 27, line 19, the recitation "a thin-wall deep socket" should be related to the socket hole.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16, 27 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kontra (US 2,565,659) in view of Winchester (US 3,380,267).

With respect to claim 16, Kontra discloses a method of preventing disconnection of a coupling using a device having (i) first and second halves (see figure 2) that are mateable to form an opening, said first and second halves each having an inner surface, (ii) a plurality of holes defined in said first and second halves, said plurality of holes including at least one socket hole, wherein the socket hole has a length comprising a first diameter portion (21) and a second diameter portion (23), the socket

hole is enclosed along the first diameter portion and the second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the socket hole is defined in one of said first and second halves such that the first diameter portion is proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second halves, (iii) at least one threaded hole (20) defined in the other of said first and second halves, and (iv) at least one threaded fastener (see figure 4), said method comprising the steps of: (a) fitting said first and second halves directly over said coupling, such that said coupling is disposed in said opening, (b) aligning said socket hole with said threaded hole, (c) inserting said threaded fastener into said socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener with said threaded hole; and wherein said at least one threaded fastener is threadedly engaged with said threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket. Kontra states that his coupling is a speedometer cable couple, and does not disclose that the coupling can be used with odometer cables. Winchester discloses a similar coupling that can be used with speedometer cables and odometer cables alike (see at least col. 1 lines 20-24). In view of Winchester's teaching, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Kontra's coupling with odometer cables.

With respect to claim 27, Kontra discloses a method of preventing disconnection of a cable coupling, comprising: (a) providing an cable coupling; (b) providing a device having first and second sections (see figure 2) that are mateable to form an opening, said first and second sections each having an inner surface and a plurality of holes, said

plurality of holes including (i) at least one socket hole, wherein the socket hole has length comprising a first diameter portion (21) and a second diameter portion (23), the socket hole is enclosed along the first diameter portion and the second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the socket hole is defined in one of said first and second sections such that the first diameter portion is proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second sections, (ii) at least one threaded hole (20) defined in the other of said first and second sections, and (iii) at least one threaded fastener (see figure 4); (c) fitting said first and second sections directly over said coupling, such that said coupling is disposed in said opening; (d) aligning said socket hole with said threaded hole; and (e) inserting said threaded fastener into said socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener with said threaded hole; wherein said at least one threaded fastener is threadedly engaged with said threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket. Kontra states that his coupling is a speedometer cable couple, and does not disclose that the coupling can be used with odometer cables. Winchester discloses a similar coupling that can be used with speedometer cables and odometer cables alike (see at least col. 1 lines 20-24). In view of Winchester's teaching, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Kontra's coupling with odometer cables.

With respect to claim 37, Kontra discloses a method of preventing disconnection of a coupling using a device having (i) first and second halves (see figure 2) that are mateable to form an opening, said first and second halves each having an inner

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surface, (ii) a plurality of holes defined in said first and second halves, said plurality of holes including at least one socket hole, wherein the socket hole has a length comprising a first diameter portion (21) and a second diameter portion (23), the socket hole is enclosed along the first diameter portion and the second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the socket hole is defined in one of said first and second halves such that the first diameter portion is proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second halves, (iii) at least one threaded hole (20) defined in the other of said first and second halves, and (iv) at least one threaded fastener (see figure 4), said method comprising the steps of: (a) fitting said first and second halves directly over said coupling, such that said coupling is disposed in said opening, (b) aligning said socket hole with said threaded hole, (c) inserting said threaded fastener into said socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener with said threaded hole; and wherein the socket hole has an opening (e.g. as at the junction of the two halves) proximate the second diameter portion, the threaded fastener defines a head (26/30), and wherein the step of inserting said threaded fastener comprises inserting said threaded fastener such that said head does not protrude through said opening. Kontra states that his coupling is a speedometer cable couple, and does not disclose that the coupling can be used with odometer cables. Winchester discloses a similar coupling that can be used with speedometer cables and odometer cables alike (see at least col. 1 lines 20-24). In view of Winchester's teaching, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Kontra's coupling with odometer cables.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 31-34 and 36 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/23/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that Kontra and Winchester do not disclose or teach all of the recited steps of claim 16, namely the step of threadingly engaging a threaded fastener with a threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket. The Examiner disagrees. Kontra's socket hole (having portions 21, 23) is considered to constitute a thin-wall deep socket. Kontra uses this hole the threadingly engage the threaded fastener with threaded hole (20).

Applicant asserts that Kontra and Winchester do not disclose or teach all of the recited steps of claim 27, namely the step of threadingly engaging a threaded fastener with a threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket. The Examiner disagrees. Kontra's socket hole (having portions 21, 23) is considered to constitute a thin-wall deep socket. Kontra uses this hole the threadingly engage the threaded fastener with threaded hole (20).

Applicant asserts that Kontra and Winchester do not disclose or teach all of the recited steps of claim 37, namely the step of inserting a threaded fastener such that the head of the fastener does not protrude through an opening in the socket hole proximate

the second diameter portion. The Examiner disagrees. Kontra's head (26/30) does not protrude through the opening of the socket hole that is at the junction of the two halves of the device. This opening is shown in phantom in Fig. 3 in Kontra, and is considered proximate the second diameter portion (23).

Conclusion

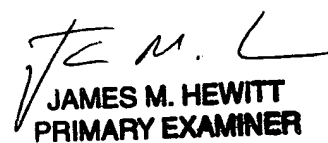
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER